

November 17, 2011

David H. Weiner  
President, CWA Local 1081  
60 Park Place, Suite 504  
Newark, NJ 07102

**RE: Public Housing Family Waiting List**

Dear Mr. Weiner:

I am in receipt of your October 13, 2011 letter regarding the Public Housing Family Waiting List closing. I apologize for the delayed response to your correspondence. Your letter noted several concerns and posed a few questions for my response.

Your first concern is that the agency chose to close the list a week earlier than previously advertised and you felt that notice to the public of such action was not sufficient. I understand you feel the notice in the Star-Ledger did not give the public enough lead time before the action to close the waiting list. However, there were several resources used by the Agency to communicate our intentions. While the Star-Ledger is indeed a public document available to most, we also partnered with a large number of local agencies to reach the public in need of our services.

On October 3, 2011, NHA forwarded letters of early closure to the following partnering agencies: Honorable Ras J. Baraka, Honorable Darrin S. Sharif, Honorable Luis A. Quintana, Essex County Division of Senior Services, Unified Vailsburg Services, Department of Administration Partnerships & Grants Management, Newark Emergency Services for Families, Newark Extended Care Facility, Broadway House Continuing Care, New Vista Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Garden Adult Day Care Center, Belleville Senior Services, Newark Now, American History High, Windsor Gardens Care Center, Good Will Mission, Newark Day Center, East Orange General Hospital and several Churches. Additionally, On October 3, 2011, the Newark Public Library (all branches), Against All Odds and Tri-City Peoples Corporation, who offered free computer access to applicants, received an electronic notice of early closure of our Waiting list. Those notices were posted in their facilities. The early closing notice was also posted on NHA website and online at the application site itself [www.nhawaitinglist.com](http://www.nhawaitinglist.com). We also advertised the notice in El Nuevo Coqui on October 6, 2011.

Please understand the decision and subsequent action to close the waiting list and discontinue accepting applications was not arbitrary. This agency made the decision with a combination of several important factors in mind. Our experience in this area and knowledge of the complexities of the application process helped reach this decision. Most important in this decision was the fact that we were receiving an average of up to 2,000 applications per day. This number was far larger than anticipated in the short time period it was already open. We also know our capacity limitations. It would be unfair to continue to accept applications we might not get to for several years, knowing our



limitations. Once the assessment was completed the decision was made to close the waiting list which will allow those that were vigilant in applying timely an opportunity to be examined, qualified and subsequently leased.

Furthermore, you noted that calls are only being accepted during certain abbreviated times and days of the workday. Applicants may contact our Occupancy Department during regular business days and hours at (973) 273-6127 or (973) 273-6129. We also have set aside specific days and times (Tuesday 1-4 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9-Noon) for applicants with inquiries on the status of their applications to call (973) 273-6127. This practice allows the application staff to focus on processing applications during the other days and times. Applicants may also obtain information and answers to frequently asked questions, via our website, [www.rwarkha.org](http://www.rwarkha.org). Hopefully, in the very near future, applicants will be able to check their application status as well as update general information of their application online.

Lastly, your letter noted several questions you would like me to answer. They are as follows:

1. Do applicants have to make a separate application for each of the sites advertised or can they make one application? **Answer:** Our application allows the applicant to choose either a first available property option or choose up to three different developments to be considered for housing. In short, one application can be used for several sites.

2. All of the family housing sites are not listed. The omitted locations include Hyatt Court, Terrell Homes and others.

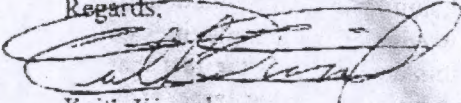
a. What is the reason for these exclusions? **Answer:** We excluded Hyatt Court, Terrell Homes, Bradley Court and Pennington Court from this process because we currently have a substantial number of families already on a waiting list that had chosen these sites for housing. In June 2009, the referenced properties waiting list were opened and we currently have over 6,000 families to be examined, qualified and subsequently leased. However, the total vacant units available at all of sites are 89. As such there was no need to accept new applications for these specific sites.

b. How will vacancies at these sites be filled? **Answer:** See answer for a. above.

c. Is demolition or some other disposition planned for any of the excluded sites? **Answer:** No demolition or some other disposition is planned at this time for Terrell Homes, Bradley Court, or Pennington Court. The only planned demolition is five (5) buildings at Hyatt Court which had been previously approved by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

d. If so, which ones? **Answer:** Does not apply.

Regards,



Keith Kinard  
Executive Director

Copy Janet Abrahams, Chief of Operations